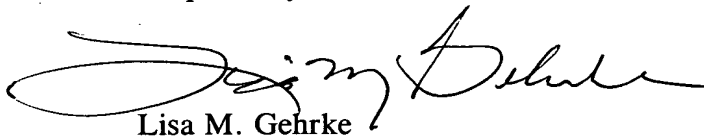


Preliminary Amendment - Uhlén et al.  
Attorney Docket 2039.000  
*A Method of Affinity Separation and Ligands for Use Therein*  
Page 4

A marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment is attached as *Version With Markings Showing Changes Made*.

Entry of the amendments and early consideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa M. Gehrke', is written over the typed name.

Lisa M. Gehrke  
Registration No. 38,888

Dated: April 20, 2001

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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

9. A method or a protein or a use as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein one or more Asn residues in said ligand or said protein are replaced with a less alkaline-sensitive amino acid.

10. A method or a protein or a use as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 9] claim 1, wherein two or more Asn residues are modified.

11. A method or a protein or a use as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 10] claim 1, wherein all the Asn residues are modified.

12. A method or a protein or a use as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 11] claim 1, wherein Asn residues on the surface of the three-dimensional structure of the ligand or protein are modified.

13. A method or a protein or a use as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 12] claim 1, wherein said Asn residues are replaced with an amino acid selected from lysine, aspartic acid and leucine.

14. A method as claimed in [any one of claims 1, 2 or 9 to 13] claim 1, wherein said affinity ligand is a combinatorial protein.

15. A method as claimed in [any preceding method claim] claim 5 which further comprises the step of:

c) selecting a randomised affinity ligand by expression in a surface display library.

17. A method as claimed in [any one of claims 14 to 16] claim 14, wherein said combinatorial protein is derived from an immunoglobulin molecule or a fragment or derivative thereof, staphylococcal protein A (SPA) or a fragment, domain or derivative thereof, or a DNA binding protein, or fragment or domain thereof.

19. A method as claimed in [any preceding method claim] claim 1, wherein said affinity ligand comprises Albumin-Binding Protein (ABD) or a fragment or derivative thereof.

22. A protein as claimed in claim 6 [or claim 7] wherein said combinatorial protein is derived from an immunoglobulin molecule or a fragment or derivative thereof, staphylococcal protein A (SPA) or a fragment, domain or derivative thereof, or a DNA binding protein, or fragment or domain thereof.

24. A protein as claimed in [any one of claims 6, 7, 22 or 23] claim 6 wherein said affinity ligand comprises Albumin-Binding Protein (ABD) or a fragment or derivative thereof.

25. A nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein as defined in [any one of claims 6, 7, 9 to 13 or 22 to 24] claim 6.

26. A host cell expressing a protein as defined in [any one of claims 6, 7, 9 to 13 or 22 to 24] claim 6.